Reusing content under Creative Commons licenses

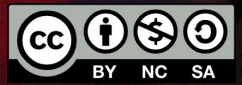

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Image: ‘Lawrence Lessig:Remix Party’, by José Carlos Cortizo Pérez, licensed under CC BY 2.0.

Reusing content under Creative Commons licenses

- Creative Commons licenses not only allow copying and sharing of licensed works. They also allow to create new works from them.
- When we reuse one or more works under Creative Commons licenses to create a new work, we must pay attention to the compatibility between the licenses.
- We must also pay attention to whether the new work we are creating is a derivative work (that is, an adaptation or remix) or is a collection.

Creative Commons licenses and derivative works

- Derivative works, also known as adaptations and, in certain cases, as remixes, are works that adapt, translate or modify in a creative way one or more previously existing works.
- Some typical examples of derivative works are:
  - Theatrical adaptation of a novel
  - The translation of a book
  - The remix version of a song
  - A collage based on one or more images

Creative Commons licenses and derivative works

- When we create a derivative work, we have the copyright on the creative contributions we make, and we can apply a Creative Commons license to these contributions.
- However, the previously existing works that we use to create our derivative work, retain the license that their authors put them.
- So a derivative work is a complex work, where the license of the original work coexists with the license of the creative contributions of the adaptation or remix.

Creative Commons licenses and derivative works

- All Creative Commons licenses allow derivative works to be made, but the licenses that have the ND (NoDerivatives) element do not allow us to publicly share the derivative works that we create.
- Licenses that have the SA (ShareAlike) clause, only allow the derivative works to be shared under the same license as the original work.

Creative Commons licenses and derivative works

This table explains what licenses we can use in a derivative work, according to the license of the original work(s).

Adapter's license chart		Adapter's license						
		BY	BY-NC	BY-NC-ND	BY-NC-SA	BY-ND	BY-SA	PD
Status of original work	PD							
	BY							
	BY-NC							
	BY-NC-ND							
	BY-NC-SA							
	BY-ND							
	BY-SA							

can be used

not recommended

can't be used

Table: '[Adapter's license chart](), by Creative Commons, licensed under [CC BY 4.0]().

Creative Commons licenses and derivative works

	PUBLIC DOMAIN	PUBLIC DOMAIN	BY	BY SA	BY NC	BY ND	BY NC SA	BY NC ND
PUBLIC DOMAIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
PUBLIC DOMAIN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
BY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
BY SA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
BY NC	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
BY ND	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
BY NC SA	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
BY NC ND	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

This table shows what types of content are compatible with each other to be able to remix them, according to their license. We should only take it into account when we want to remix two or more original works.

Table: ‘CC License Compatibility Chart’, by Creative Commons, licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Creative Commons licenses and collections

- Collections are works that collect, compile or reorder previously existing works, without making creative modifications to them.
- Some typical examples of collections are:
  - An anthology of stories, poems or essays
  - An album or photo book
  - A playlist of videos
  - A broadcast or documentary where photographs are shown

Creative Commons licenses and collections

- When we create a collection, we have the copyright on the arrangement of the works, as well as on other creative elements that we add (for example, a prologue).
- However, the previously existing works that we arrange in our collection, retain the license that their authors put them.
- So a collection is a complex work, where the licenses of the original works coexist with the license of the arrangement and of other creative elements that we add.

Creative Commons licenses and collections

- All Creative Commons licenses allow us to incorporate the works into collections, but when we want to include a work that has the NC (NonCommercial) clause in our collection, we must take into account that we cannot make a commercial use of that work, and we cannot license our collection under a license that allows commercial uses.

Creative Commons licenses and collections

This table explains what licenses we can use for a collection, according to the licenses of the original works that are included in the collection.

Original Work	Commercial Collection (BY, BY-SA, BY-ND)	NonCommercial Collection (BY-NC, BY-NC-SA, BY-NC-ND)
PD		
BY		
BY-NC		
BY-NC-ND		
BY-NC-SA		
BY-ND		
BY-SA		

Table about CC-licensed content and collections, by Creative Commons, licensed under CC BY 4.0.

Creative Commons licenses and collections

- To exemplify how we can attribute and license a collection, nothing better than sharing a brief collection of films about free culture, to enjoy at any time.

Collection of films about free culture

The collection ‘Collection of films about free culture’, by Jorge Gemetto, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. Each film indicates its own license.

Image: ‘film’ by popturf.com, licensed under CC BY 2.0.

RIP!: A Remix Manifesto

RIP!: A Remix Manifesto is a Canadian documentary film, directed by Brett Gaylor, about copyright, copyleft and remix culture, licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

FREENET

FREENET is a Brazilian documentary film, directed by Pedro Ekman and Thomas Miguez, about human rights, free culture and the Internet, licensed under CC BY 4.0.

The Internet's Own Boy

The Internet's Own Boy is an American documentary film, directed by Brian Knappenberger, about the story of the free culture activist Aaron Swartz, licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 3.0.

Hard as Indie

Hard as Indie is a Spanish documentary film, directed by Arturo M. Antolín, about the story of the filming of the CC licensed movie ‘El Cosmonauta’, licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0.